



Montgomery County Commission on Health

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2018

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

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Commission on Health FY 2018 Annual Report

The Commission on Health (COH) respectfully submits its Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Annual Report. Working both with the County's leadership as well as the dedicated, professional and conscientious staff of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the COH focused on key public health issues. The COH also provided recommendations to county leadership and DHHS staff on improving county resident health and well-being.

In FY18, the COH focused on Access to Contraception, Behavioral Health, Data Needs, Health Literacy and Men's Health. The COH also continued to support work by DHHS toward achieving public health accreditation. COH members recommended communication skills training for County employees regarding health literacy.

Additionally, COH members worked to build and maintain partnerships with Healthy Montgomery and other boards, commissions and organizations. Health equity and social determinants of health, connects the COH's work with the work of the other boards and commissions. Regardless of wealth, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, age or gender, we all experience health burdens. However, some individuals and groups are affected disproportionately and repeatedly experience barriers to services and poor health outcomes. For these individuals and populations, the county's public health programs provide vital, often irreplaceable, support.

Accurate data collection and analysis are essential to addressing health disparities and barriers. The COH's focus on data needs helps ensure that the County has the necessary information for effective decision making and targeted interventions. The COH researched ways to obtain data more quickly by looking at data gaps, forming partnerships with organizations that hold data, and understanding what data is available. The commissioners were also interested in how the county could expand their capacity to conduct research and strengthen collaboration with local health partners.

It has been an honor to serve as the chair of the COH during FY18. The Commission is filled with 19 dedicated and very accomplished professionals who willingly volunteer their time and knowledge to leave a lasting positive effect on DHHS and Montgomery County Residents. The Commission also benefits from the expertise of ex-officio DHHS members, support from DHHS staff and liaisons from other commissions. The COH respectfully submits the attached FY18 Annual Report and looks forward to continued work and collaboration to improve public health and advise the Council and County Executive.

Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, PharmD
Chair, Commission on Health

Mission and Purpose

The primary mission of the Montgomery County Commission on Health (COH) is to advise the County Executive and the County Council on public health issues, programs, services and the allocation of funds devoted to public health needs and to monitor and assess the priorities of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) in its efforts to address the health needs of residents in this County. The purpose of this report is to comply with the annual requirement that the COH provide the County Executive and the County Council with an update on the activities of the COH from July 2017 through June 2018.

**CHAPTER 24-24 OF
THE MONTGOMERY
COUNTY CODE
PROVIDES
AUTHORITY FOR THE
COMMISSION ON
HEALTH. THE
COMMISSION ON
HEALTH (COH) WAS
ESTABLISHED ON
JULY 1, 1988**

Structure

The Commission is comprised of 19 voting members with representation from consumers and providers of health services in the County. As dictated by County Code, the COH also has a representative from the Montgomery County Medical Society. In FY18, there were 10 consumers, and 8 providers and the Medical Society representative. The ex officio (non-voting) members of the COH include: the County Health Officer; the Montgomery County Public Schools liaison; and the County Council liaison. The COH continues to represent a diverse cross-section of Montgomery County residents.

Membership consisted of 19 members who were racially and ethnically diverse and vary in age, gender, geography and experience in health policy, public health, and the health care system.

The COH Chair and Vice Chair are elected by COH members and serve one-year terms. During FY18 Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian was the Chair of the Commission and Sean Bailey was the Vice Chair.

Meetings

The COH meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month (except in August) at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. All meetings are open to the general public. In FY18, the COH met monthly with the exceptions of August and December 2017.

At a minimum, every member of the Commission is expected to either serve on one workgroup and, when possible, as a liaison to other health-related County boards, commissions, committees or minority health initiatives and programs.

With its broad perspective of public health, the COH recognizes the value of collaboration and communication with other health-related boards, commissions and committees. Many commissioners have an area of specialization, interest or constituency of public health and are therefore encouraged to serve as liaisons with other relevant health-related boards, commissions and committees (BCCs). Integral to this area of special interest is the constraint that all actions are in voice of the entire COH and not self-serving in any manner. Finally, members of the COH also served on committees that allowed the COH to conduct its business such as the membership, nominating and retreat planning committees. These committees require significant time and are in addition to the monthly scheduled meetings.

FY18 MEMBERSHIP

CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES

Sean Bailey, MPA

Laura Boyle, MPH

Brenda Brooks, MA

Desiree de la Torre, MPH, MBA

Heather Deckert

Jessica Kronstadt

Susan Milstein, Ph.D.

Tonya Saffer, MPH

Jacqueline Smith, MS

Ashim Subedee, PhD

PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVES

Brandie Armijo, LPN, BSN, MSOM, Lac

Jessica Chung, PharmD

Maya Das, M.D., J.D.

Kenneth Goldstein, MD, Retired

Michelle Hawkins, DNP, MSN, MBA

Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, PharmD

Fabienne Santel, M.D., MPH

Jason Woo

MEDICAL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE

Sheela Modin, M.D.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

Marla Caplon, RD, LD, Director, School Wellness Initiatives, MCPS

Mark Hodge, MS, BSN, RN, Deputy Health Officer, Public Health Services, DHHS

Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst, Montgomery County Council

STAFF

Ellen Segal, Office Services Coordinator, Public Health Services, DHHS

Karen Thompkins, MPH, Program Manager, DHHS

MEET THE MEMBERS

Brandie Armijo

Brandie is an Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Provider at the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, PC. She has 13 years of experience as a nurse in family medicine and internal medicine. Brandie received a BS in nutrition and a MS in oriental medicine and acupuncture at Midwest College of Oriental Medicine in Racine, Wisconsin. She is a NCCAOM Diplomate in Acupuncture.

Sean Bailey

Sean is Manager of Enterprise Services at Atlas Research in Washington, DC. In this role, he provides leadership to a team of management consultants. He has substantial experience in the federal government and private sectors. He received a BA in Psychology from Morehouse College and a MPA from Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA.

Laura Boyle

Laura is a Product Implementation Project Manager for Kaiser Permanente. She has been a project manager for numerous large scale digital services and public health projects with organizations such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), World Bank, the National Cancer Institute, and the Society for Public Health. Laura has a MPH from East Stroudsburg University and a MIPP from George Washington University.

Brenda Brooks

Brenda is a Program Analyst at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), within the Office of Counterterrorism and Emerging Threats (OCET). Prior to joining the FDA, she had a long career as a federal Contracting Officer within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She received a MA degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a BA degree from the University of Maryland.

Jessica Chung

Jessica is a pharmacist at Barquist Army Health Clinic (BAHC) where she serves active and retired military members. Jessica Chung is a native of Rockville, Maryland. She received a BS in Biology at University of Maryland, College Park and a PharmD at Howard University.

Maya Das

Maya is Vice President of Clinical Research at Processa Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing treatments for patients with unmet medical needs. Maya has more than 10 years of experience in the healthcare and life science sectors. Maya received a BS in Biochemistry from Beloit College and both MD and JD degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Desiree de la Torre

Desiree is the Director of Community Affairs and Population Health Improvement for Children's National Health System in Washington, DC. She leads the organization's population health improvement planning process, including support for community-based organizations, health equity, and compliance with federal community benefit regulations. She received a BS degree in Psychobiology from the University of California, Los Angeles, a MPH from Boston University, and a MBA from The Johns Hopkins University.

MEET THE MEMBERS

Heather Deckert, JD

Heather is a health law attorney, specializing in clinical research and drug development. She currently works at the FDA with the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Heather is a native of Montgomery County and received a BS in Biology and a JD from the University of Maryland.

Kenneth Goldstein

Kenneth is a retired physician having practiced Hematology/Oncology for 40 years. Upon retirement, he worked as a medical expert at the Peace Corps helping to assess medical care and medical facilities available to the volunteers in various isolated posts. Currently, he volunteers at the Holy Cross Clinic in Silver Spring and teaches medical students at George Washington University.

Michelle R. Hawkins

Michelle is the Director of Care Management at Johns Hopkins HealthCare LLC. In her current capacity, she maintains oversight of the population health case management programs. She oversees social workers and outreach department that support care management efforts. She received a BS in Zoology from Howard University and a BSN from the University of Maryland School of Nursing. She received a MSN/MBA from Johns Hopkins University and a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian

Lenna is a pharmacist with more than 20 years of experience in her field. She is a District Pharmacy Manager for Safeway/Albertsons and currently manages 35 pharmacies in Maryland and Delaware. She received her Bachelors in Pharmacy from Ohio State University and her Doctorate in Pharmacy from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Jessica Kronstadt

Jessica is the Director of Research and Evaluation at the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). In this role, she oversees efforts to evaluate the accreditation program and to promote research to build the evidence base around accreditation. She received her Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Sheela Modin

Sheela is a Radiation Oncologist with a private practice associated with Holy Cross Hospital. She is the Medical Director of the Holy Cross Hospital Radiation Treatment Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. Sheela obtained her undergraduate degree in Psychology and Mathematics from Carleton University, Ottawa followed by a master's degree in Biopsychology from the University of British Columbia. She completed her medical degree and internship at McMaster University in Hamilton Ontario before completing her residency and fellowship at Georgetown University.

MEET THE MEMBERS

Susan Milstein

Sue has been a full-time faculty member at Montgomery College since 2000. She earned her BS in Health Education from SUNY Cortland and a MA in Health Education from the University of Maryland, College Park. She earned a PhD in Human Sexuality Education from Widener University.

Tonya L. Saffer

Tonya is Senior Health Policy Director at the National Kidney Foundation (NKF). She works to identify, develop, and advance legislative and federal regulatory policies to improve health outcomes and opportunities for kidney patients and enhance health professionals' abilities to prevent, identify and treat chronic kidney disease. She received a BA in Political Science from Arizona State University and a MPH in Health Policy from the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.

Fabienne Santel

Fabienne is a physician, medical writer and clinical research consultant. She received her BA from the University of Maryland at College Park, her Masters of Public Health from Florida A&M University and her MD degree from the SUNY Downstate College of Medicine in Brooklyn, New York. She is board certified in internal medicine and has practiced as a hospitalist, a primary care physician and volunteer provider in Montgomery County.

Jacqueline Smith

Jacqueline is a healthcare lobbyist for the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer and a doctoral candidate at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She is a frequent public speaker and patient advocate called to speak at U.S. Congressional and Senate briefings and events around the nation.

Ashim Subedee

Ashim is a Program Director at the National Cancer Institute's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Development Center. In this role, he supports small businesses working to develop and commercialize anti-cancer therapeutics, diagnostics, and other technologies. Ashim completed his undergraduate degree in Biology from Iowa State University. He received his PhD in Biological and Biomedical Sciences from Harvard University.

CAPT Jason Woo

Jason began his Commissioned Corps career at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and completed a residency in obstetrics/gynecology at Georgetown University Hospital. He currently serves as the Senior Medical Officer in the FDA's (CDER) Office of Generic drugs. Jason received his MPH from the University of Arizona School of Public Health and has a Diploma in Economic Development from the London School of Economics.

Commission on Health Liaisons

Board, Committee or Commission	Liaison
African American Health Program (AAHP)	Michelle Hawkins
Commission on Children Youth and Families	Brenda Brooks
Commission on Veterans Affairs	Brandie Armijo
Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee	Michelle Hawkins and Tonya Saffer
Mental Health Advisory Board	Jessica Kronstadt
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB)	Sean Bailey
Montgomery County Medical Society	Sheela Modin
Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PBTSAC)	Maya Das
School Health Council	Susan Milstein

Commission on Health Testimonies

The Commission on Health testified at the following forums:

- Presentation to the County Council sitting as the Board of Health to share COH FY18 priorities on November 28, 2017
- County Council HHS Committee Work Session for HHS Boards, Committees and Commissions on October 18, 2017

Commission on Health Committees

Membership Committee

Lenna Israbian
Jessica Kronstadt
Michelle Hawkins

Nominating Committee

Lenna Israbian
Ashim Subedee
Desiree de la Torre

Retreat Planning Committee

Tonya Saffer
Michelle Hawkins

Commission on Health Priorities

At the Commission on Health Annual Retreat held on October 19, 2017, the Commission on Health discussed priorities for FY18.

- Access to Contraception
- Behavioral Health
- Data Needs
- Health Literacy
- Men's Health

Commission on Health Workgroups

Access to Contraception

Heather Deckert
Jason Woo

Behavioral Health

Brandie Armijo
Desiree del la Torre
Jaqueline Smith

Data Needs

Laura Boyle
Maya Das
Jessica Kronstadt
Sheela Modin

Health Literacy

Jessica Chung
Michelle Hawkins
Tonya Saffer
Ashim Subedee

Men's Health (workgroup active through January 2018)

Sean Bailey
Brenda Brooks
Ken Goldstein
Susan Milstein
Fabienne Santel

Commission on Health Workgroups Summary Reports

Access to Contraception

The Access to Contraception workgroup focused on access to contraception in schools. The workgroup would like to see more access to contraception education and worked to align their efforts with the County Health Officer's interest in addressing sexual health. Their goals in FY18 were to help address the County Health Officers concerns regarding condoms in schools' initiative and increasing rates of STIs in the county.

Behavioral Health

In FY18, the Behavioral Health workgroup's goals were to 1) identify, understand, and begin to explain the gaps in behavioral health services in Montgomery County and 2) Participate in existing behavioral health programs in order to promote harmonization and alignment and make the best use of resources while avoiding duplication of efforts.

In order to accomplish this, the workgroup researched access to mental health services, stigma of mental health, bullying as it relates to behavioral health, and the promotion of mental wellbeing. To address issues of mental health related ER visits and to continue to work collaboratively with partners, the workgroup initiated two activities that they plan to continue in FY19. The first is a letter in support of the Behavioral Health and Crisis Service (BHCS) Strategic Alignment, because their work reflects the need for further behavioral health support while aligning current activities. The Second, is working with the Montgomery County Mental Health Advisory Committee to identify areas where the two committees can work collaboratively. Additionally, the workgroup looked to the Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families for more information and to find ways to align efforts.

Men's Health

The Men's health workgroup researched key information on men's health in order to make recommendations on how to address health issues amongst this demographic. On the county level, there are indications from Health Montgomery data that men are less likely than women to have health insurance or go to a physician for routine care.

The workgroup dis-banded, in January of 2018 in order to focus efforts of the commission in the remaining four workgroups and members joined other workgroups.

Commission on Health Workgroups Summary Reports

Health Literacy

As DHHS now requires that all community outreach partners complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's program on Health Literacy for Public Health Officials. The Health Literacy workgroup explored communication among the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services front facing employees. Their goal was to encourage staff member to complete trainings to improve health literacy communication skills.

The workgroup also recommended that outreach partners and navigators enroll in the University of Maryland Smart Choice Program to enhance literacy and knowledge of residents in the community. Additionally, as the HPV vaccination rates are low the workgroup researched ways to increase rates through educating the community. The workgroup also discussed signage at HHS facilities and CDC Health Literacy online training.

Data Needs

State-of-the-art data collection and analysis capabilities are needed for Montgomery County to be able to better understand the health of residents throughout the community and target interventions more effectively. The data needs workgroup researched ways to obtain data more quickly by looking at data gaps, forming partnerships with organizations that hold data, and finding out what data is out there to be obtained.

The workgroup gathered information about PHS's assets and needs related to data collection and analysis. Based on these learnings, the Workgroup drafted a "Vision for Public Health Services Data Collection and Analysis," to be shared with the Director of DHHS and the County Council. Additionally, they were also interested in how to expand the capacity to conduct research and strengthen collaboration with the University of Maryland. Through conversations with the County Health Officer and the staff in the Office of Epidemiology and Planning, the Workgroup learned about the publication of the first "Health in Montgomery County," work to improve relationships with local universities and data sharing arrangements, and the receipt of a grant through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Data Across Sectors for Health program.

Based on these discussions, the workgroup articulated in its data vision statement additional opportunities to foster the PHS's ability to engage in data-informed decision making. The statement lists recommendations, including collaborating with local schools and community partners; identifying existing data sets and ascertaining gaps; investigating staff training needs; and coordinating with other boards and commissions on data availability and needs.

Montgomery County Commission on Health

Commission on Health
1401 Rockville Pike
2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/PHS/CommOnHealth/COHIndex.html>



The Commission on Health was established on July 1, 1988. See chapter 23-24 of the Montgomery County Code for a description of the mission of the Commission on Health.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Raymond L. Crowel
Director

The County Executive and County Council encourage people who live or work in Montgomery County to become actively involved in matters affecting the quality of life in Montgomery County. Appointments are made to over 75 Boards, Committees, and Commissions by the County Executive, with confirmation by the County Council.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/index.html>